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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/743,947	04/30/2001	Yuko Iijima	6640/61464	1512

7590 09/30/2004

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, MIKE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2182

DATE MAILED: 09/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/743,947	IIJIMA, YUKO
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Mike Nguyen	2182

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 February 2002.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION***Notices & Remarks***

1. Claims 1-11 are pending for the examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Welmer (U.S. Pat. No. 5,815,082).

As to claim 1, Welmer teaches a communication method for carrying out communication between a plurality of devices connected with each other through a predetermined digital communication control bus (see fig. 1), wherein in order to check whether a second device connected to a first device through the digital communication control bus corresponds with a desired control command, a parameter for sorting the control command as a unique control command is added to an operation of the control command sent from the first device (see figs 1-2 col. 6 lines 12 to col. 8 line 41).

As to claim 2, Welmer teaches the communication method according to claim 1, wherein when the second device that receives the control command decides whether the

device corresponds with the desired control command, the second device identifies not only by the operation code of the command but also by the parameter for sorting the command as a unique control command, and the second device sends to the first device a response answering the inquiry about whether the device is compatible (see figs 1-2 col. 6 lines 12 to col. 8 line 41).

As to claim 3, Welmer teaches the communication method according to claim 2, wherein when there is a decision that the second device corresponds with the desired control command based on the response received by the first device, display data of a control panel for instructing the second device to operate is generated based on the decision (see col. 6 lines 35-60).

As to claim 4, Welmer teaches the communication method according to claim 3, wherein the display data of the control panel is provided so that display of the corresponding control command can be distinguished from each other by the a user (see col. 5 line 63 to col. 6 line 11).

As to claim 5, Welmer teaches a communication device for carrying out communications with an opposite party on an other end of connection connected with a predetermined digital communication control bus (see fig. 1), the device comprising: communication means for transmitting and receiving packets through the digital communication control bus, and control means, in order to check whether the opposite party in communication with the communication device by means of the communication

means corresponds with the desired control command , for adding a parameter for sorting the control command as being unique to an operation code of the desired control command and making the communication means send the same resulting (see figs 1-2 col. 6 lines 12 to col. 8 line 41).

As to claims 6, Welmer teaches the communication device according to claim 5, further comprising display data generating means in which, when the communication means receives a response to the control command, the control means makes a decision whether the device corresponds or not, and based on the decision, the display data generating means generates display data of control panel that instructs a user for the device sending the response what to operate (see col. 6 lines 35-60).

As to claim 7, Welmer teaches the communication device according to claim 6, wherein the display data for the control panel generated by the display data generating means is provided so that a display of the corresponding control command and a display to non-corresponding control command can be distinguished from each other (see col. 5 line 63 to col. 6 line 11).

As to claim 8, Welmer teaches a communication device for carrying out communications with an opposite party on an other end of connection connected with a predetermined digital communication control bus (see fig. 1), the device comprising: communication means for transmitting and receiving packets through the digital communication control bus, and control means for identifying whether the device

corresponds with a predetermined control command not only by designation of a predetermined operation code included in a packet received from the predetermined opposite party by the communication means but also by parameter for sorting the command as being unique, and making the communication means transmit a packet of response including its response data (see figs 1-2 col. 6 lines 12 to col. 8 line 41).

As to claim 9, Welmer teaches a communication system for carrying out communication between a first device and a second device connected with each other through a predetermined digital communication control bus (see fig. 1), wherein the first device comprises: first communication means for transmitting and receiving packets through the digital communication control bus; and first control means for adding a parameter for sorting a desired control command as a unique one to a operation code of the control command in order to check whether the second device corresponds with the desired control command and for making the first communication means transmit the resulting signal (see figs 1-2 col. 6 lines 12 to col. 8 line 41);

the second device comprises: second communication means for transmitting and receiving packets through the digital communication control bus; and second control means for identifying whether the device corresponds with a predetermined control command not only by designation of a predetermined operation code include in packets received from the first device by the second communication means but also by a parameter for sorting the command as a unique one and for making the second communication means send a packet of response including response data to the first device (see figs 1-2 col. 6 lines 12 to col. 8 line 41).

As to claims 10, Welmer teaches the communication system according to claim 9, wherein the first device includes display data generating means and when a decision is made that the device corresponds with the desired control command based on the response received by the first device, the display data generating means generates display data of control panel for instructing a user of the second device what to operate based on the decision (see col. 6 lines 35-60).

As to claim 11, Welmer teaches the communication system according to claim 10, wherein the display data generated by the display data generating means of the first device is provided so that a display for the corresponding control command and a display for non-corresponding control command can be distinguished from each other (see col. 5 line 63 to col. 6 line 11).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,442,621 B1 (Kondo et al.)

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mike Nguyen whose telephone number is 703 305-5040. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on 703 308-3301. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

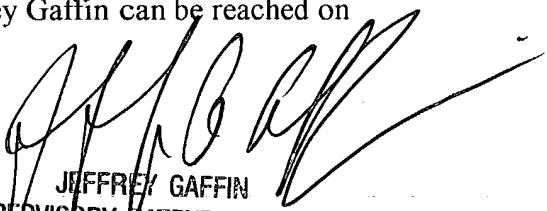
Art Unit: 2182

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6. We will move to new site in mid-October so any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications after October should be directed to the examiner whose telephone number is 571 272-4153. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on 571 272-4146.

Mike Nguyen
Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2182

09/22/2004



JEFFREY GAFFIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100